

***Appendix XXIII. Glossary***

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**Antropogenic** – Caused by human activity.

**Bacteria and Viruses** - Their proliferation is typically caused by the transport of animal or human fecal wastes from the watershed.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)** – Best Management Practices (BMPs) are activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the United States. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage. In the case of municipal storm water permits, BMPs are typically used in place of numeric effluent limits.

**Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Water Body** - An impaired water body in which water quality does not meet applicable water quality standards and/or is not expected to meet water quality standards, even after the application of technology based pollution controls required by the CWA. The discharge of urban runoff to these water bodies by the Copermittees is significant because these discharges can cause or contribute to violations of applicable water quality standards.

**Construction Site** – Any project, including projects requiring coverage under the General Construction Permit, that involves soil disturbing activities including, but not limited to, clearing, grading, disturbances to ground such as stockpiling, and excavation.

**Development Projects** - New development or redevelopment with land disturbing activities; structural development, including construction or installation of a building or structure, the creation of impervious surfaces, public agency projects, and land subdivision.

**Discharge** – A release or flow of storm water or other substance entering or leaving a conveyance system.

**Dry Season** – May 1 through September 30 of each year.

**Erosion** – When land is diminished or worn away due to wind, water, or glacial ice. Often the eroded debris (silt or sediment) becomes a pollutant via storm water runoff. Erosion occurs naturally but can be intensified by land clearing activities such as farming, development, road building, and timber harvesting.

**Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs)** - Areas that include but are not limited to all Clean Water Act Section 303(d) impaired water bodies; areas designated as Areas of Special Biological Significance by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (1994) and amendments); water bodies designated with the RARE beneficial use by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (1994) and amendments); areas

designated as preserves or their equivalent under the Multiple Species Conservation Program within the Cities and County of San Diego; and any other equivalent environmentally sensitive areas which have been identified by the Copermittees.

**GIS** – Geographic Information System

**Grading** - The cutting and/or filling of the land surface to a desired slope or elevation.

**Hazardous Material** – Any substance that poses a threat to human health or the environment due to its toxicity, corrosiveness, ignitability, explosive nature or chemical reactivity. These also include materials named by the USEPA in 40 CFR 116 to be reported if a designated quantity of the material is spilled into the waters of the U.S. or emitted into the environment. Order No. R9-2007-0001 January 24, 2007 C-4

**Hazardous Waste** - Hazardous waste is defined as “any waste which, under Section 600 of Title 22 of this code, is required to be managed according to Chapter 30 of Division 4.5 of Title 22 of this code” [CCR Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 11, Article 1].

**Household Hazardous Waste** – Paints, cleaning products, and other wastes generated during home improvement or maintenance activities.

**Illicit Connection** – Any connection to the storm drain system that conveys an illicit discharge.

**Illicit Discharge** - Any discharge to the storm drain system that is not composed entirely of storm water except discharges pursuant to a NPDES permit and discharges resulting from fire fighting activities [40 CFR 122.26(b)(2)].

**Low Impact Development (LID)** – A storm water management and land development strategy that emphasizes conservation and the use of on-site natural features integrated with engineered, small-scale hydrologic controls to more closely reflect pre-development hydrologic functions.

**Metals** - Metals are raw material components in non-metal products such as fuels, adhesives, paints, and other coatings. Primary source of metal pollution in storm water are typically commercially available metals and metal products. Metals of concern include cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc. Lead and chromium have been used as corrosion inhibitors in primer coatings and cooling tower systems.

**Municipal Storm Water Permit** – This permit is a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit issued to San Diego County, San Diego Unified Port District, and 18 cities including the City of San Diego by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board in order to reduce pollutants in urban runoff. The permit includes a requirement for the City to develop and implement a jurisdictional Urban Runoff Management Program.

**Municipal Facilities/Activities** – Municipal facilities and activities are buildings or field work areas where City employees perform their daily operations.

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** - The national program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements, under Sections 307, 318, 402, and 405 of the California Water Authority (CWA).

**Non-Storm Water** – Non-storm water consists of all discharges entering and leaving a *storm water* conveyance system that do not originate from rain events. Non-storm water includes illicit discharges, non-prohibited discharges, and NPDES permitted discharges.

**Nuisance** - As defined in the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act a nuisance is “anything which meets all of the following requirements: 1) Is injurious to health, or is indecent, or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property. 2) Affects at the same time an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons, although the extent of the annoyance or damage inflicted upon individuals may be unequal. 3) Occurs during, or as a result of, the treatment or disposal of wastes.”

**Nutrients** - Nutrients are inorganic substances, such as nitrogen and phosphorus. They commonly exist in the form of mineral salts that are either dissolved or suspended in water. Primary sources of nutrients in urban runoff are fertilizers and eroded soils.

**Oil and Grease** - Primary sources of oil and grease are petroleum hydrocarbon products, motor products from leaking vehicles, esters, oils, fats, waxes, and high molecular-weight fatty acids.

**Organic Compounds** - Organic compounds are carbon-based. Commercially available or naturally occurring organic compounds are found in pesticides, solvents, and hydrocarbons.

**Oxygen-Demanding Substances** - This category includes biodegradable organic material as well as chemicals that react with dissolved oxygen in water to form other compounds. Proteins, carbohydrates, and fats are examples of biodegradable organic compounds. Compounds such as ammonia and hydrogen sulfide are examples of oxygen-demanding compounds.

**Pesticides** - Pesticides (including herbicides) are chemical compounds commonly used to control nuisance growth or prevalence of organisms.

**Pollutant** - Any agent that may cause or contribute to the degradation of water quality such that a condition of pollution or contamination is created or aggravated.

**Pollution** - As defined in the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act: “the alteration of the quality of the waters of the State by waste, to a degree that unreasonably affects the either of the following: 1) The waters for beneficial uses; or 2) Facilities that serve these beneficial uses.” Pollution may include contamination.

**Post-Construction BMPs** - A subset of BMPs including structural and non-structural controls which detain, retain, filter, or educate to prevent the release of pollutants to surface waters during the final functional life of developments.

**Receiving Waters** – Waters of the U.S.

**Redevelopment** - The creation, addition, and or replacement of impervious surface on an already developed site. Examples include the expansion of a building footprint, road widening, the addition to or replacement of a structure, and creation or addition of impervious surfaces. Replacement of impervious surfaces includes any activity that is not part of a routine maintenance activity where impervious material(s) are removed, exposing underlying soil during construction. Redevelopment does not include trenching and resurfacing associated with utility work; resurfacing and reconfiguring surface parking lots and existing roadways; new sidewalk construction, pedestrian ramps, or bikelane on existing roads; and routine replacement of damaged pavement, such as pothole repair.

**Sediment** - Soil, sand, and minerals washed from land into water. Sediment resulting from anthropogenic sources (i.e. human induced land disturbance activities) is considered a pollutant. This Order regulates only the discharges of sediment from anthropogenic sources and does not regulate naturally occurring sources of sediment. Sediment can destroy fish-nesting areas, clog animal habitats, and cloud waters so that sunlight does not reach aquatic plants.

**Storm Drain System** – A storm drain system is those municipal and natural collection facilities within the City where storm water drains, collects and is transported to a water body. Examples of storm drain systems are any roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, natural (i.e., creeks and rivers) and artificial channels, aqueducts, canyons, stream beds, gullies, curbs, gutters and ditches.

**Storm Water** – Per 40 CFR 122.26(b)(13), means storm water runoff, snowmelt runoff and surface runoff and drainage.

**Storm Water Standards Manual** – This City document contains all of the City’s construction and permanent (post-construction) storm water development requirements. *SUSMP* requirements are implemented by the “Priority Project” requirements in the Storm Water Standards Manual.

**Storm Water** – Storm water is defined as runoff that originates only from a rain event, although the term may frequently be incorrectly used when referring to water that is actually “urban runoff” (see below). Storm water is that portion of precipitation that flows across a surface to the storm drain system or receiving waters. Examples of this event include the water that flows off a building’s roof when it rains (runoff from an impervious surface); the water that flows into streams when snow on the ground begins to melt (runoff from a semi-pervious surface); and the water that flows from a planted surface when rainfall can no longer absorb into the soil (runoff from a pervious surface). During rain events in urban areas, rain water picks up and transports pollutants through a storm water conveyance system, and ultimately delivers the pollutant to a water body.

**Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans, or SWPPPs** (See also: Water Quality Management Plans) – SWPPPs and water quality management plans are plans containing storm water procedures or BMPs developed internally by city staff (specific department staff, Environmental Services Department or Storm Water Division), or externally by a consultant. These plans outline the specific procedures determined to eliminate or reduce pollutants from entering the storm water conveyance system, and are often developed for individual municipal yards.

**SUSMP (Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan)** – The Regional Water Quality Control Board’s term for a series of storm water development requirements, required by the *Municipal Storm Water Permit*, aimed at reducing post-construction (i.e., once the site is in use) urban runoff pollution from new public and private development and redevelopment projects. The City of San Diego implements the SUSMP requirements through the *Priority Project* requirements in the *Storm Water Standards Manual* (see separate definitions).

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)** - The maximum amount of a pollutant that can be discharged into a water body from all sources (point and non-point) and still maintain water quality standards. Under CWA section 303(d), TMDLs must be developed for all water bodies that do not meet water quality standards after application of technology-based controls.

**Trash & Debris** - Trash (such as paper, plastic, polystyrene packing foam, and aluminum materials) and biodegradable organic matter (such as leaves, grass cuttings, and food waste) are general waste products on the landscape.

**Urban Runoff Management Plan (URMP)** – The plan required to address pollutants in urban runoff as mandated by the *Municipal Storm Water Permit*. The City of San Diego URMP, describes the activities each city department will implement to improve water

quality and meet the requirements of the Permit. The City of San Diego is required to submit annual reports detailing the activities that were implemented during each fiscal year as part of the URMP. To see the entire URMP, go to the Think Blue website at <http://www.thinkblue.org/brochures/URMP.htm>.

**Waste** - As defined in CWC Section 13050(d), “waste includes sewage and any and all other waste substances, liquid, solid, gaseous, or radioactive, associated with human habitation, or of human or animal origin, or from any producing, manufacturing, or processing operation, including waste placed within containers of whatever nature prior to, and for purposes of, disposal.” Order No. R9-2007-0001 January 24, 2007 C-9 Article 2 of CCR Title 23, Chapter 15 (Chapter 15) contains a waste classification system that applies to solid and semi-solid waste, which cannot be discharged directly or indirectly to water of the state and which therefore must be discharged to land for treatment, storage, or disposal in accordance with Chapter 15. There are four classifications of waste (listed in order of highest to lowest threat to water quality): hazardous waste, designated waste, non-hazardous solid waste, and inert waste.

**Water Quality Management Plans** (See also: Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans, or SWPPPs) – Water quality management plans and SWPPPs are plans containing storm water procedures or BMPs developed internally by city staff (specific department staff, Environmental Services Department or Storm Water Division), or externally by a consultant. These plans outline the specific procedures determined to eliminate or reduce pollutants from entering the storm water conveyance system, and are often developed for individual municipal yards.

**Wet Season** – October 1 through April 30 of each year.